

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 10900 281622Z

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E.O.11652: N/A DECON 8-28-76

TAGS: PFOR, LE, LY, PLO

SUBJECT: REMARKS OF QADDAFI TO LEBANESE JOURNALIST

THE FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY "L ORIENT LE JOUR" PUBLISHED AND EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH LIBYAN LEADER MUAMMAR QADDAFI AUG 24 RESULTING FROM A RECENT TRIP TO TRIPOLI BY A DEL OF REPORTERS FROM THE NEWSPAPER. THE INTERVIEW CENTERED MAINLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY ON THE CHRISTIAN AND ESPECIALLY THE MARONITE, ROLE IN LEBANON. THIS TOPIC AROSE EARLY IN THE COVERSTATION WHEN TWO MEMBERS OF THE DEL WERE INTRODUCED TO QADDAFI AS MARONITES. AS THE ARTICLE PUT IT, HE SEIZED THE SUBJECT AND EXPRESSED HIMSELF AT LENGTH ON IT. HE BECAME QUITE ANIMATED, DROPPING A SADNESS THAT THE WRITER SAID HE'D NOTICED INITIALLY IN QADDAFI'S FACE. EXCERPTS: (A) AFTER ASKING "WHAT IS ESSENCE ARE THE MARONITES?" AND GETTING A HISTORY OF THE MARONITE BRANCH OF CHRISTIANITY IN RELPY. QADDAFI SAID: " I DRAW FROM YOUR DESCRIPTION AN INITIAL CONCLUSION: IN LEBANON THERE ARE NOT, AS THERE ARE IN CYPRUS, TWO ETHNIC GROUPS: THERE IS A SINGLE PEOPLE HAVING A CHRISTIAN WING AND A MOSLEM WING." (B) QADDAFI TO THE MARONITE REPORTERS: " THERE IS NOT THERE CANNOT BE, FOR US A HOLY AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK. NEITHER CHRISTIANS NOT JEW ARE OUR ENEMIES. WITH OUT GOING INTO DETAILS OF THE LEBANON EVENTS, ONE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS NO RELIGIOUS CONFLICT

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 10900 281622Z

IF THERE WERE CONFESSIONAL CLASHES, IT WAS BECAUSE ISLAM IS

POORLY UNDERSTOOD, EVEN BY MOSLEMS THE MARONITES ARE OUR BROTHERS,  
LIKE OTHER ARAB CHRISTIANS.

(C) QADDAFI ON RELIGION IN GENERAL: " I AM A BELIEVER AND AN  
ARAB NATIONIST. I BELIEVE, CONTRARY TO THE TNEETS OF HISTORICAL  
MATERIALISM, THAT RELIGION AND NATIONALISM ARE THE TRUE NOTORS  
OF HISTORY. ISLAM IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT BUT I PREACH AN ISLAM  
OF PROGRESSIVE CONTENT.

(D) QADDAFI ON THE PALESTINIANS: " I AM NORE PALESTINIAN THAN  
THEY ARE. HERE WE SEE AN AGREEMENT AGAINST THE RESISTANCE AND  
THEY DON'T REACT."

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